



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

<b>DAY 1 Tuesday, February 4, 2020</b>			
Cultural Boardroom, Nihtat Gwich'in Council Building, Inuvik			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>
8:30 AM Arrival	Coffee and tea provided		
1. 9:00 AM Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call to order</li> <li>• Round table</li> <li>• Declaration of conflict of interest</li> </ul>	Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB	<b>Motion</b> Information
<p>Call to Order: 9:03 AM (Jozef)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jozef recognized quorum.</li> <li>• Round table introductions.</li> <li>• Declaration of conflict of interest as it arises.</li> </ul> <p>Attendees (morning session):</p> <p>Sarah Lord, GRRB Staff            Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Staff            Édouard Bélanger, GRRB Staff            Amy Amos, GRRB Executive Director            Cheryl Greenland, GRRB Staff            Jordan Norman-Goose, GRRB Staff            Burt Hunt, GRRB Member            Sam Bullock, GRRB Member            Tracy Davison, GRRB Alternate            Margaret Begg, GRRB Member            Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB Chair            Roger Fraser, GRRB Alternate            Doug Doan, GRRB Member            John Norbert, GGRRC            John Voudrach, GRRB Youth Work Experience Representative            Ellen Lea, DFO            Peter Rodger, DFO            Jen Leslie, DFO            Lois Harwood, DFO            Elizabeth Vittrekwa, TGRRC            George Niditchie, GGRRC            Andrew Koe, TRRC            Tommy Wright, Public            Allen Firth, NRRC            Norman Snowshoe, ENR</p> <p>Amy Amos provided housekeeping information.</p>			



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2. 9:05 AM Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and approval of agenda</li> </ul>	Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB	Motion
<b>Motion to accept the February 2020 Board meeting agenda as proposed</b>		Motion  GRRB 20-01	
Moved by: Burt Hunt	Seconded by: Roger Fraser		
All in favour	Motion Carried		
3. 9:10 AM Minutes	Review and approval of minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 2019 face-to-face meeting</li> <li>October 2019 teleconference</li> <li>December 2019 teleconference</li> </ul>	Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB	Motion
September 2019 face-to-face meeting minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faye's last name spelled wrong</li> </ul>			
<b>Motion to approve the September 2019 face-to-face meeting minutes with the above correction</b>		Motion  GRRB 20-02	
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Margaret Begg		
All in favour	Motion Carried		
<b>Motion to approve the October 2019 teleconference meeting minutes</b>		Motion  GRRB 20-03	
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Burt Hunt		
All in favour	Motion Carried		
<b>Motion to approve the December 2019 teleconference meeting minutes</b>		Motion  GRRB 20-04	
Moved by: Roger Fraser	Seconded by: Doug Doan		
All in favour	Motion Carried		
4. 9:15 AM Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of outstanding action items</li> </ul>	Amy Amos, GRRB	Information
Amy Amos provided an update on outstanding action items, including those arising since the last Board meeting in September. No questions or comments.			
5. 9:30 AM Reports	Opportunity for Q&A on written reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairperson (5 min)</li> <li>Members (15 min)</li> <li>Executive Director (10 min)</li> <li>Staff reports (Q&amp;A only)</li> </ul>	Jozef Carnogursky Board members Amy Amos No presentation	Information
<b>See the meeting binder for individual reports. No questions or comments.</b>  Ahead of agenda, brought item 7 forward.			



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7. Commercial Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on defining commercial use (15 min)</li> </ul>	Amy Amos, GRRB	Information
<p>Amy Amos provided context and background for GRRB's power to define 'commercial use' of wildlife meat and its consultations to date to exercise that power. This activity is at the request of the Regional RRC in 2017. Amy provided a status update, review of actions to date and next steps.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> The staff have shown real leadership on approaching this. We are early in the process but the approach is very good. The different land claim groups are pursuing different agendas right now. For example, Sahtu is showcasing traditional knowledge in its listening sessions. Tlicho have many different files.</p> <p>Question: Has there been communication from the other RRBs about the definition of 'commercial use' as an issue in their communities?          Answer: Not much from southern co-management partners, but Inuvialuit have indicated that they are interested and paying close attention.</p> <p>Question: 'Commercialization' of caribou goes against PCMB – what feedback have they provided?          Answer: They have been involved in every meeting we've held. The instructions we gave to ENR say Porcupine caribou will be treated differently. In the land claim the definition of trade includes sale, so it's hard to limit that, but the PCMA is different.</p> <p>Question: Surprised there's no other place where this has been done.          Answer: We are the first RRB to pursue this. <i>Wildlife Act</i> has a broad clause that recognizes the RRBs power but no specifics. Issues we have run into are selling meat on Facebook so we are trying to find ways to walk that line between the mandates of GRRB and PCMA and something that will work for the communities.</p> <p>Question: Is Nunavut a good example to look at?          Answer: Have heard a very wide range of opinion from communities so far. Consulting on draft Regulations will help us in providing direction.</p> <p>RRC comment: In the Yellowknife area, different communities have their own TK and use it differently. We aren't doing that yet. We should look into that.</p>			
9:50 AM Break	Snacks Provided		
6. Agency Updates	a) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (30 min)	Ellen Lea (Inuvik)	Information
<p>Ellen reviewed DFO's activity over the past year. Highlights included: updated IFMP for Dolly Varden. Rat River Working Group meeting is upcoming and hope to have printed copies available then. Continuing to work towards securing funding to support junior monitors to work with char monitors. Gabe Nirlungnayuq (Arctic Region RDG) is not available to give update so Ellen will. DFO Coast Guard is working on Arctic Region too. Appreciates GRRB comments on Arctic Region development to date. Herb Nakimayuk has been brought on to work on Arctic Region as of today, out of Yellowknife. Larry Dow (Director of Northern Operations) plans to retire this spring so Kevin Bill is on assignment with Arctic Region to support the transition to the Arctic Region and fill in some elements of Larry's role as they move forward in structuring the management. A number of community coordinator positions are in progress across the North; locations have not been confirmed yet, but will serve as first point of contact with DFO for communities. Key positions including senior management, positions to coordinate Indigenous recruitment and Traditional Knowledge have yet to be determined. DFO is working with partners to develop it the best way we can so will continue to look to GRRB and other partners to get it right. Region will be rolled out in a phased approach over a number of years. Final boundary has yet</p>			



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to be decided. Will keep you updated on progress. Encourage GRRB to provide questions, comments, direction going forward to contact Gabe Nirlungnayuq directly or Cal Wenghofer who is engagement liaison.

Question: Who will replace Larry? Much of our communications have been with Larry. Will we have someone designated as our contact? Will we go through you and the local office?

Answer: Unknown. They are trying to boost up senior management positions in the North in general.

Unknown structure. Kevin is on assignment as Director of Arctic Operations to assist with that transition. The future of Larry's position and other management positions in the North is still up in the air. Ellen and Kevin are the best contacts. As new positions arise, that might be adjusted.

Question: Are you suggesting there will be a new region for Nunavut as well as Denedeh? Or are you speaking in general terms in both regions?

Answer: It's one single Arctic region that would encompass the majority of the Arctic/North, but with those boundaries yet to be defined. I suspect it includes all of NWT, Yukon North Slope, into Nunavut and some parts of the further eastern Arctic.

Question: When do you expect a rough framework from DFO outlining what areas you're talking about?

Answer: Initial discussions have been seeking input on how the Arctic region should look and who would like to be a part of it to define those boundaries. I can ask Gabe and Cal for a timeline but I don't think they've been formalized yet.

Ellen continued with an update from Conservation & Protection. This report is from the Yellowknife office (they did not provide a written update for the meeting binder). They patrolled the Dempster and met with Tetlit RRC last summer. Investigated one occurrence. C&P does not have a year-round presence in the GSA so must send staff opportunistically to this area. Have heard there is interest in Aboriginal Fisheries Guardians in the North so discussions are underway in the region. DFO is responsible for enforcement of commercial, Indigenous, domestic and educational fisheries. ENR is the enforcement lead for sportfishing in NWT. DFO has mandate to protect fish habitat, marine mammals and conduct patrols of MPAs in Beaufort Sea. With limited resources, multiple priorities and a large area to cover, Fishery Officers must respond to complaints as they arise. For 2019 season, Officers have not received any complaints in the GSA. Continue to look for opportunities to engage students but recognize they have limited capacity to present to schools in local area. In 2020-21 they expect to increase level of coverage and plans include enhancing community engagement, providing opportunistic sportfishing patrols, proactive inspections of Dempster Highway, respond to habitat and fishery occurrences as they occur and conduct school presentations as capacity allows. Acting Superintendent for NWT is your best contact (Christian Markou).

Question: When we say DFO are we not saying Coast Guard as well? Are you answering questions for Coast Guard here? Is there any thought of using the Rangers with the Army as a transition body for the Coast Guard, primarily Search and Rescue? That would be a good place to use a resource that is already developed and trained.

Answer: Yes, but I don't have much familiarity with their program. That is a good suggestion and I will pass it on.

Question: In future, could you provide your information ahead of time? It would have been nice to have a written report for us to review in advance so we can prepare.

Answer: Yes, I can work with different groups to get something into your binders ahead of time.

Chair: Thank you for coming to give an in-person update, which we haven't had in the last couple of meetings.



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6. Agency Updates	b) Government of Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (45 min)	Norman Snowshoe, ENR	Information
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Norman Snowshoe provided an update. Highlights included: two positions are in the process of being filled. ENR participates in programs to get youth out on the land. Traditional Economy program includes CHAP and Take A Kid Trapping programs, trapper training workshops, compensation programs like Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur program, tanning workshops and more. Insect monitoring and other forest management projects. Very few boat patrols because of the bear situation in the communities last summer. Lots of grizzly bears in Aklavik, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic. Do as much highway patrols as possible when the road is open. ENR could not cross in early winter when lots of harvesting was happening because the road was not officially open. *Wildlife Act* is new and ENR is teaching *Wildlife Act* 101 in the communities. MACA is involved in grizzly bear conversation because they manage the landfills. Hopefully will find a resolution soon. Water Resource Officer enforces the conditions of water licences. Regional Environmental Assessment coordinator covers spills; in the GSA have 20 spills reported, 14 classified as minor, 4 major and 2 spills were unfounded/falsely reported. Research and monitoring focus in NWT is barren-ground caribou. Participate in management of all the herds and sit on the boards as well. Monitor muskox in the Richardson Mountains. Wolf harvest monitoring, wolverine sampling. Aklavik put down 8 grizzly bears last summer and 5 bears in Inuvik. Minimal impact on the Gwich'in quota because used credits from previous years. Having discussions with municipalities about this issue. A lot of work on ITH in research, monitoring and enforcement. Hired a new ITH biologist to lead studies post-construction on the highway.

Question: DFO talks about potential fisheries Guardians program. What are the training elements for ENR's patrolmen versus the Officers? Do patrolmen have full enforcement powers under *Wildlife Act*?  
 Answer: No they don't. So their training doesn't involve that. They administer fur sales, conduction of samples, attend HTC meetings, do patrols and if they see anything that requires investigation they notify the regional office to send out an officer to do the investigation. We bring them in annually; once a year we have an officer's conference and they come to that required training. Example: defensive tactics. There is one patrolman in Tsiigehtchic and the other Gwich'in communities have officers.

Discussion: In early 1990s there was a time when fisheries administration was going to be turned over to GNWT, which didn't happen. But it meant some officers were going to be cross-designated, so a wildlife officer could do a fishery officers' job and vice versa. That model didn't happen. But a joint patrolman/Guardian in the communities could perhaps react to not only the issues you're talking about but also fisheries issues.

Question: Wolf harvest and monitoring – in the North Slave we had meetings 5-6 years ago to get the wolf population down to reduce predation. Only now is an incentive program starting. Caribou numbers here are very low as well but there's no talk of how many wolves there are, or starting an incentive program?  
 Answer: The wolf incentive program in North Slave has been on for a few years. A lot of trappers in this region ask why they don't get the same incentive here. Our response is that because the caribou population there is way down. It's been upped a little more this year. But this region is co-management with Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, with processes to ensure communities are fully participatory in the process. We can't start one of those programs without going through the co-management process. In McPherson we asked people to report to the RRC and ask GRRB that they were interested in this type of thing.

Question: Porcupine caribou were coming through last August and I saw trucks with 8, 10, 12 caribou in the back. It was so warm out that there was a lot of wastage. I know you said you couldn't go across later in the fall because the ice road wasn't open, but does ENR have plans on working with local RRCs or getting



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information out there to these hunters about hunting conditions. I saw a lot on Facebook about meat wastage.

Answer: For the Porcupine caribou herd, ENR's role is to ensure hunting is done safely, there is no wastage. On the Dempster highway it's been a problem since the 80s that people are going out earlier. We put out messages including 'Let the Leaders Pass'. We put a huge sign at 8 Miles and the hunters used it for sighting their rifles. Every year we put this big message out there that it's too early, you have to wait and let them cross. A lot of people listen to that message and don't hunt. But a lot of them don't listen. The community of McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik – everyone in this region knows everyone so officers see people from all the communities and despite the management from co-management nobody listens. We are very fortunate this year that the caribou came back. In previous years a lot of people went without. In McPherson they were trying to put in a motion that would disallow hunting in July & August. That would make ENR's role in this easier. Right now we don't have the enforcement power to tell people not to hunt, because PCMA says if you are a Participant you can hunt that herd anytime, anywhere. Until we review these existing agreements and put Regulations in place that say you can't hunt, ENR's role is to watch and make sure nobody gets injured and there is no blatant wastage and monitor the situation like we do every year.

Question: PCMB is meeting next week in Dawson. Would a letter from GRRB to PCMB recommending that there be no hunting in July & August on the Dempster Highway be helpful? We keep saying this over and over, maybe at some point they might hear it. Hunting too early when it's warm, the meat spoils.

Answer: We can make that recommendation as a Board. This came up at GTC meeting in Aklavik last week too. They are going to be sending ENR a letter.

Norman: The Board here has the power to make that Regulation. They don't need the PCMB.

Discussion: If PCMB says you can hunt at any time of the year, how can we contradict that? Requires further discussion.

Question: It sounds like there are caribou surveys planned for 2021. Are there none planned for this year?

Answer: For which herd? For Cape Bathurst there is no planned population estimate until 2021. I know this Board asked to move it up but it was too late, logistically. There is regular monitoring that will happen.

Question: How would communities be able to access *Wildlife Act* 101?

Answer: Email Norman.

RRC question: I seconded that motion to shut the highway down in that time. We had PCMB there. I understand the Native User Agreement that we're going to be infringing on people's rights to harvest, etc. But if anybody has been up there and seen what has occurred in regards to hunting too early – Norman spoke about Let the Leaders Pass, we have gone out there and asked people not to hunt for a reason. This goes back to our TK. Yet it still happens. There's lots of wastage. I'll be really happy if GRRB steps up. There was correspondence with other groups including Inuvialuit. Maybe getting their participants to understand not to hunt during this time. I'm not sure where GTC is at in this but I think a recommendation from GRRB to PCMB on this is good. I'm sure you're going to hear this was done and it was made into law and Yukon government is going to say why are they putting this back on the table again – my opinion is that it's through TK, we're bringing it back to the table again and say we're going to stand behind this for a reason. There's a big fight over Porcupine caribou in Alaska and it's really sad that over there we're saying protect the ANWR and protect the Porcupine caribou herd and yet over here we have this catastrophe. With this recommendation from GRRB, I would be very happy with that.

Answer: It's an ongoing issue. At some point it has to be addressed. Right now ENR doesn't have any laws to address this problem. Right now we can monitor so that nobody is killed or injured or blatant wastage. In the





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past we did make Regulations through co-management process, 500 m no shoot and 1 km closure for let the leaders pass, we had 6" of snow requirement for use of snowmobiles. But those were all taken off the books.

Question: Was there a lot of meat wastage reported to ENR?

Answer: No more than normal. We had some Facebook posts about it. The same as in previous years.

Question: They have a natural gate up there. That ferry is a real resource you can use. There's no hunting from here, everybody has to go on the ferry, nobody can sneak across. They had that trailer there a few times – if you kill lots in the summer you have a lot of wastage. Could we not put a limit on it? Say hunt 1 or 2 caribou but at least if you waste it, it won't be that much. You don't have the people there that's got some guts that can say to their friend or anybody, hey you're wasting, or whatever. We talk about this all the time. All the laws. We have a real opportunity here but you need to do it the right way, not just cut everybody off but reduce it to 1 or 2. It's really important. Talking about it's not good enough. You have to do something. You have to get all the RRCs involved.

Answer: We really pushed for no hunting the fall. People listened and left the caribou alone one year and the caribou stayed around for the winter. I remember people were going across to get wood and coming back with a load of meat. The following year people went up on the highway for water, saw caribou and the mindset is we'll take this one – and in McPherson people saw that and went out to get only one too. And in a couple of weeks there was not a lot to hunt. Long ago nobody hunted in July and August. Because there was no access to that harvesting area. The only reason people hunt up there now is the Dempster highway. It's why people were fishing in July & August. My advice is if you make any regulations, it has to be enforceable. My suggestion is that you're allowed one caribou during those times. I've got my cousins going out to get around 30. There are ways around laws. So make it enforceable. You can't even go up to a truck with a load of meat unless there's a strong suspicion of a broken law.

Question: We recognize some of the processes that need to go on in terms of limiting harvest. On the highway we have PCMB and the signatories to that. Maybe you can offer us some suggestions, because from my understanding of the claim (which is also law) that we need to follow, when limiting harvest of Gwich'in there needs to be a public health, public safety, or conservation concern. Is it ENR's position that one of those three things exist at this time?

Answer: One of the land claim provisions is to uphold the traditional practices of the Gwich'in. And in my personal opinion, back before 1980s we would never harvest in July and August.

Question: I'm wondering if ENR can provide something in writing that can help us deal with this issue. Because it comes up every year.

Answer: Send a letter to ENR and we'll respond.

Question: You mentioned regulations that were in place back in the 90s. Why were they repealed? Were they ineffective? Did they help?

Answer: We got the 500m feedback because it was a lot of hardship on the Elders who were out there.

Question: Some of the other issues like snow depth, part of the locations where they would measure was 8km on either side of the highway there were regulations for no motorized vehicles, so we got questions about why people can haul gravel. And that the 6" depth measurement was happening outside of the special management zone.

Answer: One of the snow depth sites was right on top of the border hill and lots of wind there always.

Question: The meat wastage – is meat wastage not a conservation issue itself?



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Answer: You're allowed to hunt the caribou based on herd numbers. There's already a regulation about wasting meat.

Question: We used to be taught those skills. Now the kids are all in town and not learning those skills. Part of enforcement is educating. If somebody breaks the law and you educate them, rather than pulling out your ticketbook, then your job is done as long as they know. Nowadays the younger generation doesn't know to let the leaders pass and so on. It's tough with ENR to enforce it. I think you have to put it in the elementary schools and high schools and have a program to take out hunters and teach them very young. ITI and MACA might help. Kids now know Nintendo games, not bush skills and hunting skills.

Answer: ENR is putting together a hunter education program, will be available soon.

Question: We talk about prior to 1979 and respecting TK and letting leaders pass. Since the signing of the land claim, that opened up the territories between different communities. We hear like the fishing in Tsiig where now because of road access that less respect is paid to traditional family fishing sites. With the land claim, did that do the same to the caribou? Give new rights to harvest and people started forgetting about the fact that prior to the Dempster highway nobody hunted in July & August so it wasn't an issue then?

Answer: The PCMA was signed prior to the land claim. Gave all harvesters of Porcupine caribou herd the right to harvest anywhere there is habitat. GCLCA says PCMA takes precedence for harvesting in our region. The Native User Agreement will give a lot of power to some of the user groups in terms of traditional harvesting areas.

Question: Going back to patrolmen – I'd rather see him go out with somebody who knows the country, for safety's sake. I'd like to see somebody with him, in Tsiighehtchic. Also, is there any money out there for cutting out the old trails? Some of those trails are in poor condition.

Answer: Those one-man patrols we ask the officers and patrolmen to make sure they do 2-man patrols especially when they're on the land. In terms of money for cutting out trails, we do entertain proposals from the communities. If we have funding we can provide that to them, if and when funds are available.

RRC comment: About educational purpose – since last fall we lost 3-4 Elders. Maybe through GRRB you can also make recommendation to record our Elders in regards to TK do's and don'ts for Porcupine caribou herd.

Question: I'm troubled by the wastage and no ability to deal with it effectively. I don't know if this is a question for you or for ENR. I'm looking at the Claim and it talks about limiting the harvest in terms of number, TAH. As opposed to the timeframe of the harvest, that seems to be a different thing. If we don't change the number, do we still have to go through that process? We will still want to consult with communities. But if you don't change the harvest level, but you exclude 2 months, I'm trying to understand.

Chair: Not only are we dealing with the Claim but also the PCMA and some judgments put down over the years on issues like this. It's tricky for us. We have to keep in mind some of the other provisions that deal specifically with PCMB and trying to ensure nobody is stepping on anybody's toes. I totally get where the communities are coming from and what we are trying to achieve, but it's getting there that's the issue. You hear from communities and you want to do certain things and there is a constant juggling act of balancing different interests. We are searching through ways to go through this process and hopefully ENR can help us on going through this process. It's one of those things where you get both sides, hearing from communities and then the other side where telling people to stop harvesting when there is not a conservation concern is hard. We've gotten a hard time about voluntary closures. There are a lot of different views on this one.

Norman: I think we're getting ahead of ourselves. We're talking way up here, but we need to talk about what legislation we can use and other technical stuff that Justice has to make.





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Question: Given there's lots of moving parts, do we take an action item that we will correspond with PCMB to suggest they add this to their discussion next week? I support Margaret's suggestion that we do that and say it's a concern to GRRB and that we're hearing from communities that we should take this discussion further, get the ball rolling.

RRC comment: This fall, Sight Your Rifle, there were a lot of people attending. It's a good idea. We should do it twice a year, not once a year. I surprised myself, I used a scope and you can make every shot count with a scope. You should respect the animal.

RRC comment: I think education is the real key in caribou management. In Tsiigehtchic we set a tent beside the river in the fall time and get the kids to do the bulls, set the nets to work with the fish, teach them how to do the work. They're strong those kids, they got a lot of voice, they're the future and they take that home and learn from it.

Norman: We respond to requests for us to come and assist in those types of programs.

Amy: Liz brought up the comment about trying to record our Elders and their messages about their Traditional way of harvesting. A year or two ago GRRB used some WSF funds to make videos about traditional harvesting. There is a bit of editing that still needs to be done but a few are completed and we can display over lunch hour. Arlyn Charlie was working with GTC Cultural Heritage Department on those and he will do those final edits. We were thinking of doing a community tour to launch the videos, go to the schools and different venues, offer snacks and so on to introduce them.

Norman: One final suggestion, Dempster highway harvest be a down-the-road agenda item. ENR has input into it but the RRCs as well. Make it a standalone agenda item and see where that goes.

11:45 AM Lunch	Provided		
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Attendees (afternoon session):

- Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB Chair
- Burt Hunt, GRRB Member
- Sam Bullock, GRRB Member
- Tracy Davison, GRRB Alternate
- Margaret Begg, GRRB Member
- Roger Fraser, GRRB Alternate
- Doug Doan, GRRB Member
- Amy Amos, GRRB Executive Director
- Édouard Bélanger, GRRB Staff
- Sarah Lord, GRRB Staff
- Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Staff
- Jordan Norman-Goose, GRRB Staff
- Cheryl Greenland, GRRB Staff
- Andrew Koe, TRRC
- George Niditchie, GGRRC
- Jessi Pascal, ERRC
- John Norbert, GGRRC
- Jeremy Brammer, ECCC
- Elizabeth Vittrekwa, TRRC
- Peter Rodger, DFO
- Jennifer Leslie, DFO
- Lois Harwood, DFO



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9. 1:00 PM Species at Risk	a) SAR management plan for Dolly Varden & how it aligns with the IFMP (45 min)	Peter Rodger, DFO	Motion
	b) Barren-ground caribou Recovery Strategy, NWT SAR (1 hr)	Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB	Motion
<p>a) SAR management plan for Dolly Varden</p> <p>Peter Rodger (DFO) gave a presentation on how the SAR management plan for Dolly Varden aligns with the revised IFMP.</p> <p>Question: Do you need an additional motion to approve the SAR plan? The Board has already approved the IFMP and this is a step beyond that.</p> <p>Answer: If GRRB has given approval to the IFMP and this is being adopted as the SAR plan, then I'm not sure.</p> <p>Discussion on process: In future, will make a motion to approve the inclusion of the existing Integrated Fisheries Management Plan as part of the SARA Management Plan for Dolly Varden. But want to see the entire SARA Management Plan first before giving that approval.</p> <p>Question: We talked about COSEWIC and what triggers the IFMP. If a community wanted to look into commercial fishing and there's been no baseline studies done and people are concerned that subsistence fishing might be impacted, would an IFMP be required?</p> <p>Answer: DFO Fisheries Management would be best positioned to answer that.</p>			
<p>b) Barren-ground caribou recovery strategy</p> <p>Kaytlin gave her presentation on the NWT barren-ground caribou recovery strategy. Note that the Porcupine herd is not included in this, it is only included in the federal recovery strategy.</p> <p>RRC comment: Forest fires are the greatest threat. They destroy everything out on the land. As long as you let the land burn, you won't have habitat for caribou. All the young ones that come down here to nest and grow, the fire and smoke destroys everything. There's nothing wrong with fighting fires right away. The last few fires we're not doing that anymore.</p>			
<b>Motion to approve the Recovery Strategy for NWT Barren-ground Caribou</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Tracy Davison	Seconded by: Doug Doan		GRRB 20-05
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
11. 2:00 PM Rat River Working Group	Rat River Working Group (RRWG) update & GRRB recommendations to RRWG (30 min)	Sarah Lord, GRRB	Decision
<p>Stock indicators look stable; Sarah mentioned that she doesn't believe there is any reason to bring the recommended voluntary harvest allocation down.</p> <p>Question: Any idea if people are happy with quota?</p> <p>Answer: I've heard that because its voluntary, they are not immediately concerned about management actions. People haven't harvested the full amount this year. Maybe we will have a year where everybody wants to go out, but that hasn't happened.</p> <p>Question: Any indication from DFO when the next genetic analysis will happen?</p>			



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Answer: There are multiple stocks across the North Slope. Potentially they identified a new one in the far west of the ISR. DFO was concerned that they couldn't differentiate that stock from the others, so they have delayed providing results of genetic analysis of char harvested on the coast. No new genetic data provided since 2016. I said to them in 2019 November DFO meeting my opinion that it doesn't matter if we can't differentiate the new stock, because from RRWG point of view we are only interested in the harvest of the Rat River stock that we do know how to differentiate, and we need those Rat River coastal harvest numbers to know how much total are harvested. DFO couldn't reply. GRRB wrote an official letter about this in 2017. Apparently, DFO was supposed to hire a consultant to do the genetics work but it seems nothing happened.

Sarah spoke about the 5% precautionary harvest threshold level, and that the actual harvest was less than 3% last year (exact % won't be known until genetics work completed). Sarah's personal opinion based on preliminary data is that 5% would be alright.

**Action #20-01: Draft a letter from GRRB to DFO (Rob Young and others) re: request for genetics results from coastal mixed-stock fishery.**

Sarah reported that the timing of the run is changing to be earlier. Also, get less fish per day, but as much fish over a longer period.

Question: Was this an agenda item in Winnipeg?

Answer: Yes. Technician said we will have that again and again. DFO finding excuses or reasons.

Question: Concerned if there is being much thought put into the increase in salmon, have there been concerns?

Burt: We should ask Rob perhaps a favor has to where this has gone to.

Amy – Give direction to the RRWG for upcoming meeting where they will recommend a voluntary annual harvest level for 2020. Is the Board okay with no more than 5%? Board is OK with going up to that number.

2:30 PM Break	Snacks provided		
10. 2:45 PM DFO Arctic Region	Development of a framework for mobilization, collection, reporting and application of Indigenous knowledge in DFO's research and decision-making activities in the new Arctic Region (1 hr)	Lois Harwood, DFO	Input & Direction

Lois Harwood is on assignment with Arctic Region. Unlike the other six Arctic Region staff, she is specifically working on a particular project: collecting and applying Indigenous knowledge in DFO's decision-making. It's been done a number of ways in the past including co-management and the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in region in the west are further ahead than Nunavut and the eastern Arctic, but there is a way for DFO to formalize it and improve. Develop a framework for a Policy so that DFO will formally include Indigenous knowledge. Under the revised *Fisheries Act* in section 2.5, DFO may include as considerations for decision making Indigenous knowledge, same in section 34. (Section 61.2 provides legal protection against the disclosure of any Indigenous knowledge provided to the Minister.) It's a big task. This policy is on how to accomplish that. I am collecting comments and direction and will put together a white paper. It may take years but DFO is legally obliged to do this. Refer to slides for details.



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Question: The “shall consult” – is there a financial provision with that, so that an Indigenous group that isn't resourced sufficiently to provide input into a decision the Minister will make, is there a fund that that group can petition for so they can participate in the process?

Answer: I think that needs to be challenge #6 on the list. I agree.

Question: What's the difference between “Indigenous knowledge” and “traditional knowledge”?

Answer: It's whatever each group who is being consulted prefers. The wording is different in different parts of the North. Eastern Arctic calls it “IQ”. Trying to use the best collective term.

RRC comment: Who decides what is Indigenous knowledge? Is it a collective decision about what information to give, or just one or two people giving it? It should be up to the whole tribe. We should be working together. Who decides who the spokesperson will be to the Minister?

Answer: This is going to be a general law. It says now it is a legal requirement to get input from hunters and fishermen. That it will be included equally with science knowledge.

RRC comment: I agree with that. I just think about how to make sure the traditional knowledge is treated right.

DFO realizes the Indigenous knowledge results and projects are not being captured by the peer-reviewed publishing process. It created a database and only 71 projects appear, which is obviously not complete and things are being missed. Including Indigenous knowledge is critical for decision-making. Community engagement coordinators (8 across whole Arctic region) are being recruited right now but locations not said yet.

Question: In here it says you are mobilizing and collecting IK. When did this start?

Answer: With the new Arctic Region, just 18 months ago.

Question: Where are you getting this information from? Is it stuff already written down somewhere? What are these eight people doing?

Answer: It's a policy for the whole Arctic Region. There are eight people but they will have other staff working on this. This is just guidance for staff. The Arctic Region wants to do better and this is a framework. It still needs to be collected. If a scientist comes up and wants to do a program they might come to the coordinator and the coordinator would provide guidance saying, you have to go to the RRC and the HTC and so on. That knowledge itself is still coming – for example you would go ask John and the coordinator would help you figure out who to talk to and how to reach them.

Discussion: This is not a library of information, it's a way to help facilitate making sure that Indigenous knowledge is incorporated into research and other processes. And opposed to going to one RRC meeting and checking a box. It's a roadmap on how to do it.

Question: In my mind there couldn't be two more opposing ways of doing things than science and traditional knowledge. It's like oil and water, it will mix for a while but it will always separate. Science generally does not incorporate a belief in something greater. Scientists make observations, ask questions, develop hypotheses and predictions, whereas Indigenous knowledge generally doesn't separate land, water, plants and the animals that live in it. There's always a belief in a higher power. I follow you to a point but there comes a point in this Science report and the Indigenous report because traditional knowledge has always been seen as 'folklore' – how do you blend 'folklore' into the scientific way of analyzing something? It's a big challenge. It almost seems like you need to conduct your science the way science is done, but parallel to that, do an Indigenous study examining the same parameters the scientific study is looking at. Then you can try to mesh



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the two together. At some point if Mr. Trudeau is sincere in his Reconciliation between blending TK and science he's given you a mandate that is almost a no-win scenario. It takes talk and I understand it's very early in the stages of developing that framework. What always starts me scratching my head is that people talk about Indigenous knowledge like there was some library where there's volumes of books called Indigenous Knowledge from all the people there is. I think before that framework can be established there has to be a lot more collaboration with land claim groups that have already established TK policies and what knowledge people are ready to share. It's a government initiative and sometimes we don't always have a say in how it gets used. I hope this framework is in a collaborative atmosphere where you're listening. This is the first part of reaching out to the community and you'll probably find you'll get a lot of input.  
 Answer: I think the challenges in this part of the country are really different than in other parts of the country.

RRC question: What do you mean by "folklore"?

Answer (from Sam): When I worked back in the 80s on a survey on geese, it was the feeling in the Department that TK had no place in science. And that "folklore" would be stories your parents told you, that there's no way to measure it and so how do you use it, how do you put it into a report. Slowly that arrogance is dissipating.

13. Harvest data	Harvest Survey Results & GRRB recommendations to PCMB (30 min)	Amy Amos, GRRB	Information & Decision
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Position vacant. Amy and Jordan took lead. Currently recruiting for position.

Presentation will be given at PCMB next week in Dawson. Present every year. Presenting to Board in advance to see if any comments or recommendations.

Work with RRCs to update harvester list. Paper survey, voluntary, names confidential. Collect locations. Careful to not duplicate reporting when there are group hunts. Process of trying to share date with Inuvialuit. Try to get harvest estimate.

Question clarifying participation rates. Answer is because of the specific data requests of PCMB. Harvesters that report in in either time period are counted as 'yes they reported' for the whole year so that gives you 97 total harvesters reporting out of 197 on an annual basis. Whereas in the participation rate of 38%, that is calculated using two time periods per year and they can be a yes for one period and no for the other in that calculation. That's why the 38% number is lower than the '97 out of 197' number. Staff confirmed against 2 previous years of data reporting that this is the correct way to report to PCMB.

Discussion of Green Zone designation.

Question: Participation on these surveys ranges from 25-85%. Among different communities. Is there a reason why people don't want to participate?

Answer: My hope is that when we hire the new position they will have ideas. We got a lot of advice at the workshop and from the consultants. My understanding is that certain things work in some communities and not others, each is different. We might need to be adaptive and find different ways of working that is not impacting the quality of the data. For example, in Aklavik the RRC decided that people have to report when they're getting their CHAP money. In McPherson people really like the radio.

In the North Slave region we weren't getting any participation either. So we hired a respected Tlicho elder, who spoke English and his own language and he went on the radio and then went door to door and the amount of information he got was unbelievable because people trusted him. When they would



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not have trusted me or others. I know some Elders won't give you their information because they think you will misuse it.

Answer: A comment came out of the workshop that it's really important who you pick to do the surveys. We've relied on the RRCs to choose the person. We will keep looking at options.

Resources are an issue too. We currently resource this ourselves, although GTC is the signatory. GNWT has provided us with 3 years of funding and this is year 3. We're going to ask them to continue to give us that \$25k. Right now I don't have that money. My thoughts are to do a report on the last 3 years and all that we've done and present it to them in a way that makes it hard to say no. If we can offer RRCs a little more money to get more information at the community level that would be really helpful, but we have a small budget.

4:00 PM Break	Meeting adjourned until 9:00 AM tomorrow		
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<b>DAY 2 Wednesday, February 5, 2020</b>			
Cultural Boardroom, Nihtat Gwich'in Council Building, Inuvik			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>
8:30 AM Arrival	Coffee and tea provided		
<p>Call to Order: 9:00am (Jozef)</p> <p>Attendees (morning session):            Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB Chair            Roger Fraser, GRRB Alternate            Doug Doan, GRRB Member            Margaret Begg, GRRB Member            Tracy Davison, GRRB Alternate            Sam Bullock, GRRB Member            Burt Hunt, GRRB Member            Sarah Jerome, GRRB Alternate            Amy Amos, GRRB Executive Director            Édouard Bélanger, GRRB Staff            Sarah Lord, GRRB Staff            Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Staff            Jordan Norman-Goose, GRRB Staff            Cheryl Greenland, GRRB Staff            Julie-Ann Andre, GRRRC            George Niditchie, GRRRC            John Norbert, GRRRC            Jessi Pascal, ERRC            Andrew Koe, TRRC            Allen Firth, NRRC            John Voudrach, GRRB Student            Jeremy Brammer, ECCC            Karen Wright-Fraser, Public</p>			
12. 9:00 AM WSF & YWEP Proposals	a) Community-based monitoring of whitefish (WSF – 30 min)	Rachel Hovel, U Maine (call-in)	<b>Motion on Day 3</b>
	b) Arctic Salmon: Samplers & Coordination (WSF – 30 min)	Karen Dunmall, DFO (call-in)	<b>Motion on Day 3</b>
<p>a) Community-based monitoring of whitefish (WSF)</p> <p>Rachel Hovel (University of Maine) (teleconference) walked through her presentation on the whitefish project.</p> <p>Questions and discussion followed on budget sources, contribution of DFO and other organizations, the importance of traditional knowledge and involving the communities directly in projects.</p>			



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### b) Arctic Salmon: Samplers and coordination (WSF)

Karen Dunmall (DFO) (teleconference) gave a presentation about the Arctic Salmon project results from previous years and plans for next year.

Questions and discussion followed on salmon as new harvest opportunity, an example of biodiversity shift due to environmental change in freshwater and marine areas, possible impacts of salmon on native fish species, how other regions are engaged in the project and the importance of traditional knowledge.

10:15 AM Break	Snacks provided		
12. 10:30 AM WSF & YWEP Proposals cont'd	c) Tracking Change – Tracking hydrological change in the GSA (YWEP – 30 min)	Tait Overeem, UVic (call-in)	Motion on Day 3
	d) Dzan-Kivgaluk muskrat monitoring (WSF & YWEP – 30 min)	Jeremy Brammer, ECCC	Motion on Day 3
	e) Barren-ground caribou and muskox surveys (30 mins)	Tracy Davison, ENR	Motion on Day 3
	f) Divii, Dall's sheep monitoring (WSF)	Édouard Bélanger, GRRB	Motion on Day 3

### c) Tracking Change – tracking hydrological change in the GSA (YWEP)

Tait Overeem and Trevor Lantz (University of Victoria) presented their proposal to study water level changes in the Mackenzie Delta using traditional knowledge interviews.

Questions and discussion included what the final products of the larger multi-year project will be and suggestion to talk with RRCs about specific observations and questions.

### d) Dzan-Kivgaluk muskrat monitoring (WSF & YWEP)

Jeremy Brammer (ECCC) gave a presentation on his muskrat monitoring project.

Questions and discussion included concerns about increased beavers, an Elder said muskrats decline when they aren't trapped enough, is it possible to use a drone instead of a plane to do aerial surveys, there are good rat lakes up on Highline and are there differences in rats there versus elsewhere.

### e) Barren-ground caribou and muskox surveys (WSF)

Tracy Davison (ENR) gave a presentation about the muskox and barren-ground caribou survey proposed for March 2021.

Questions and discussion included funding sources for different regions covered by the survey, the use of fuel caches and cost efficiencies.



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f) Divii, Dall's sheep monitoring (WSF)

Édouard Bélanger (GRRB) gave his presentation about the sheep monitoring program in the Richardson mountains.

Question and discussion included remote sensing technology, is it possible to get a Northern graduate student, how do you know if you count the same sheep twice and statistical methods to correct for that, how can this inform harvesting, how is traditional knowledge included in the project, how long do the batteries last and what triggers the cameras.

11:50 AM Lunch	Provided		
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Attendees (afternoon session):

- Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB Chair
- Roger Fraser, GRRB Alternate
- Burt Hunt, GRRB Member
- Doug Doan, GRRB Member
- Sam Bullock, GRRB Member
- Margaret Begg, GRRB Member
- Tracy Davison, GRRB Alternate
- Amy Amos, GRRB Executive Director
- Édouard Bélanger, GRRB Staff
- Sarah Lord, GRRB Staff
- Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Staff
- Jordan Norman-Goose, GRRB Staff
- Cheryl Greenland, GRRB Staff
- Andrew Koe, TRRC
- George Niditchie, GRRRC
- Allen Firth, NRRC
- Elizabeth Vittrekwa, TRRC
- Julie-Ann Andre, GRRRC
- Jeremy Brammer, ECCC
- Peter Rodger, DFO
- Ellen Lea, DFO

12. 1:00 PM WSF & YWEP Proposals cont'd	g) Arctic Borderlands community ecological monitoring (WSF)	Heather Ashthorn, ABEKS	<b>Motion on Day 3</b>
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Heather Ashthorn (ABEKS) gave her presentation on data sharing for co-management using Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society (ABEKS) data.



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14. RRC & Public Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open discussion between the RRCs, the public and Board members</li> <li>• Any follow-up from the Regional RRC</li> </ul>	Amy Amos, GRRB	Information
<p>Chair invites the RRC representatives and public to address the Board.</p> <p>NRRC: We appreciated GRRB staff assistance at Regional RRC meeting.</p> <p>TRRC: We have 2 active councillors right now and are seeking more. We look forward to working with GRRB.</p> <p>GRRRC: I've been working with the Board for a long time. I know just about all the Board members. They are doing a good job. I know they use money the right way for things that are a need. I don't like sitting on the side in the room though. I think we should join closer than that so we can talk more.</p> <p>Chair: That's a good comment and we'll set up the room differently next time. We worried we didn't have enough space.</p> <p>GRRRC: I enjoy these meetings. They are so informative. There are a few concerns in Tsiigehtchic. The RRCs used to have an RRC manual. We were told the initiating party to re-do the manual would be GTC. With the Acts and legislation changing over time, we need to have a guidebook for new people on the RRC. When we had that manual, it was really beneficial to the RRCs. If I approach GTC to start working on this, would the GRRB be willing to work with them?</p> <p>Chair: The RRC Manual came up at the Regional RRC meeting. GTC developed that manual for the RRCs as you said as a guideline. There were issues with it being outdated. My suggestion would be to talk to GTC about it as well. GRRB is interested in assisting and providing input in that process. The communities made it clear when the manual was developed that it was a set of guidelines and not rules, so GTC structured the wording to be that.</p> <p>GRRRC: What we said in the Regional RRC meeting, we didn't have a quorum. Another meeting is coming up. Are we prepared to discuss the manual at the upcoming meeting?</p> <p>Chair: We have reached out to ENR for funding for that meeting. When we hear, we will let you know.</p> <p>GRRRC: I am interested in hearing about commercial use from yesterday. Also sometimes people forget what they are allowed as to their cabins, their harvesting of trees, where they can and can't whether they're a beneficiary or a non-beneficiary, it needs to be re-iterated. On the 24<sup>th</sup> we will be having a public meeting in Tsiigehtchic regarding all the harvesting activities. If GRRB could join us from 2-4pm that afternoon. I hear little issues and if we don't address them they will get larger. I'm going to invite GTC and ENR.</p> <p>Chair: We will be able to have somebody there. We hear similar issues too about forest management, in regard to cutting and permits. We can try to put more information on some of the things we do and incorporate that in our newsletters to try to get the message out on what can and can't be done.</p> <p>GRRRC: I don't think 2-4pm is enough. Make it the whole day. There are lots of things to discuss.</p>			



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GGRRC: I thank the GRRB for being so informative and involved in the communities, always there to give advice.

Chair: If any more questions or comments, please reach out to Amy or myself.

15. Finance Committee	a) Finance Committee Report & Recommendations (verbal)	Amy Amos, GRRB	Motion
	b) Discussion & Approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of auditor</li> <li>• WSF withdrawal amount</li> <li>• Deferred revenue</li> </ul>	Amy Amos, GRRB	Motion Motion Motion
a) Finance Committee Report and Recommendations			
Amy Amos provided a verbal report on the Finance Committee meeting outcomes.			
b) Discussion & Approval			
Motion to re-appoint Paul Teo & Company as Auditors for 2019-20 fiscal year.		Motion GRRB 20-06	
Moved by: Burt Hunt	Seconded by: Sam Bullock		
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
Motion to withdraw an amount not to exceed \$77,000 from the Wildlife Studies Fund for the 2020-21 fiscal year.		Motion GRRB 20-07	
Moved by: Burt Doug Doan	Seconded by: Burt Hunt		
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
1:50 PM Break	Snacks provided		
16. 2:05 PM Board Communications	Discussion on Board communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New file sharing system</li> <li>• Laptop/tablet needs</li> <li>• Office software needs</li> <li>• Teleconference (no toll free #)</li> </ul>	Amy Amos, GRRB	Direction/ Decision
[Board & staff only]			

Discussion on the new file sharing system (SharePoint). Opinions are positive. Not too different from previous system. Financial savings.

Discussion on laptop needs, office software needs. Laptops are now quite old. One tablet is available for Members to use if they want it. One member needs Word software for his tablet; can he take the licence off an older machine and transfer it to newer one? Amy to ask Ian for directions and costs and follow up with Burt. Can a Member get a dongle or other connection for a tablet with no USB port? Yes, purchase adapter at Staples and submit the receipt for reimbursement. Let Amy know about any other needs.

Discussion on teleconferencing needs. When the Board has teleconferences, the call-in number is not toll-free. Amy does have a toll-free number if needed, but it is a paid system with up to 500 minutes per month and any overages are charged to GRRB. If any Members do not have free long-distance included in their phone plan, let Amy know and she will send you the toll-free number. If you have free long-distance, use the number on the agenda.



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8. Cape Bathurst [Board & staff only]	Discussion on herd status for Cape Bathurst	Board Members	Decision
Review of previous action toward Cape Bathurst caribou herd status.			
Direction: Stay within the red zone and work on action planning. There may be more opportunities for management and funds in the red zone, and we look forward to working with you. We can work on action planning outside of this meeting here today, via email. Help WMAC meet the political need that they have re: Tuk to have something to offer people. Ed to look up Kristen's old notes about GRRB's priorities on actions.			
<b>Motion to go in-camera at 3:15pm.</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Burt Hunt	GRRB 20-08	
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<b>Motion to come out of camera at 5:12pm.</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Burt Hunt	Seconded by: Doug Doan	GRRB 20-09	
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<b>Motion to approve the 2020-21 budget and workplan.</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Roger Fraser	GRRB 20-10	
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
18. Safety Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on any safety incidents (in-camera)</li> </ul>	Amy Amos	Information
Discussed in-camera			
20. Actions & Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record actions and motions from in-camera discussions</li> </ul>	GRRB members	Motion
<b>Action #20-02: Amy to add a slide to GRRB's presentation to PCMB to reflect community concerns heard by GRRB about Porcupine caribou.</b>			
<b>Action #20-03: Jozef, Doug, and Sam to do performance review for Amy Amos.</b>			
<b>Action #20-04: GRRB to encourage ENR to have a presence on the highway, using whatever method they prefer, to respond to concerns about Porcupine caribou.</b>			
<b>Action #20-05: Tentatively set fall meeting date for September 15-16 in Inuvik.</b>			
<b>Motion to approve the Wildlife Studies Fund allocations as described in "GRRB Approved" column of the 2020-21 allocation table for a total of \$71,554.</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Sam Bullock	Seconded by: Burt Hunt	GRRB 20-11	
All in favour.	Motion Carried.	Tracy Davison declared conflict of interest.	





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<b>DAY 3 Thursday, February 6, 2020</b>			
Cultural Boardroom, Nihtat Gwich'in Council Building, Inuvik			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>
8:30 AM Arrival	Coffee and tea provided		
Call to Order: 9:05am (Jozef)			
6. 9:05 AM Agency Updates cont'd	c) Canadian Wildlife Service	Michael Svoboda, ECCC (call-in)	Information
<p>Michael Svoboda (Canadian Wildlife Service) gave a presentation by teleconference, an update on federal Species at Risk. He discussed Hudsonian Godwit (assessed as Threatened) and Horned Grebe (listed as Special Concern in 2017). Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) and Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) funding is now available with February 27 application deadline.</p> <p>Question: Is the GRRB considered an Indigenous recipient or another category?            Answer: We considered this question for all the wildlife management boards across the North. Not all of them are Indigenous organizations, unless they are all-encompassing Indigenous nominations. If there is a mix of federal and Indigenous parties appointing members to the board, then it is considered non-Indigenous.</p> <p>Question: Could it be that they're just at the bottom of their population cycle and they'll start rebounding upwards?            Answer: It would be good if we showed the long-term graph from the COSEWIC report. The cyclic nature of some species abundance does come up in discussion, especially for species like caribou. With birds the long-term data shows the decline is quite one-way, but at the same time they do take the cycling nature of some populations into account when they make the assessment. Horned Grebe is only Special Concern so there are no prohibitions, no regulatory impacts. We always hope the species do rebound so we can take them off the Species at Risk list.</p> <p>Question: AFSAR and HSP funding programs, I don't know if it's within your ability but the application process is very long and onerous. It is difficult for people to apply for that funding. This is a comment from us so you know that it is very challenging for us to access that funding.            Answer: You're not the only one who has said that. It's not a friendly system. I would encourage you to reach out to Don Andrews who can help navigate those portals. Some of the southern projects have NGOs that write very fancy proposals and the Northern proposals can feel a little less refined, but we are able to go in and look at what the Northern agencies are proposing and perhaps we can do direct funding. We try to identify good ideas and have contact and discussion, whether the application goes into the portal or not, we can try to support it.</p> <p>Michael then reviewed a table showing all the Species At Risk in our region and their current status in the management planning process.</p>			



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Adjournment	Motion to adjourn	Jozef Carnogursky, Chairperson	Motion
<p>Chair: This concludes our agenda for the Winter meeting. Thanks to everyone for coming, and I wish everybody safe travels home.</p>			
<p><b>Motion to adjourn the February board meeting at 9:35am</b></p>		<p>Motion</p>	
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Roger Fraser		<p><b>GRRB 20-12</b></p>
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		